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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 H-02 NSC-05 OMB-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 /079 W
---------- 041027
R 121500Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2155
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNATO 2661
USMISSION USUN
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2488

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CY
SUBJECT: CONTINUED BATTLE OVER VIENNA III

REF: NICOSIA 2309

1. SUMMARY: ARGUMENT OVER VIENNA III AGREEMENT HAS DRAWN SHARP BATTLE LINE BETWEEN GLAFCOS CLERIDES AND RADICAL SOCIALIST (EDEK) LEADER VASSOS LYSSARIDES. LATTER HAS CONTINUED LEVEL INCREASINGLY VEHEMENT CRITICISM AGAINST CLERIDES SINCE AUGUST 2 ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT. ARGUMENT, WHICH REFLECTED IN EMBASSY'S PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS AND GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS, TURNS ON TWIN ISSUES OF BIZONALISM (VERSUS MULTICANTONAL SOLUTION) AND "LONG STRUGGLE" (VERSUS TAKING BEST POSSIBLE SHORT-RUN DEAL) AS CORRECT STRATEGY FOR GREEK CYPRIOTS. LYSSARIDES HAS ACCUSED CLERDIES OF "SURRENDER" BY AGREEING ALLOW TURK CYPRIOT POPULATION IN SOUTH MOVE NORTH. PUBLIC CONFUSED, TORN BETWEEN DESIRE REGAIN MAXIMUM LAND AREA AND HAVE "ALL REFUGEES RETURN HOME", ON ONE HAND, AND FEARS THAT PRESENT STALEMATE PROFITS ONLY TURKS,
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ON THE OTHER. END SUMMARY.

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2. LYSSARIDES AND HIS EDEK (SOCIALIST) PARTY CONTINUE THEIR OUTCRY AGAINST VIENNA III ACCORDS, CHARGING THAT THEY ARE EFFECTIVE GOC RECOGNITION OF TFSC AND SURRENDER ALL HOPE FOR RETURN OF GREEK CYPRIOT REFUGEES. EDEK PAPERS TA NEA AND ANEXARTITOS HEAVILY PLAYING THIS LINE. IN AUGUST 10 SPEECH LYSSARIDES SAID VIENNA III DE FACTO AGREEMENT ON BIZONALISM PREJUDGES FINAL SETTLEMENT. ONCE TURKS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN NORTH, THEY WILL TAKE OVER SOUTHERN CYPRUS AS WELL. ON SAME DAY EDEK ISSUED DECLARATION CRITICIZING CLERIDES FOR REACHING VIENNA III AGREEMENTS ON OWN INITIATIVE. DECLARATION CONCLUDED "NO TO BIZONAL FEDERATION; ALL REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES; NO TO FAITS ACCOMPLIS: LONG STRUGGLE."

3. PRO-CLERDIES PRESS AND PERSONAGES ARE DEFENSING VIENNA III. FOR EXAMPLE, ALITHIA SAYS GREEK CYPRUS HAS BEEN FORCED TO MOVE TOWARD BIZONAL FEDERATION, FOR GOOD OR EVIL, BECAUSE IT FAILED IN PAST TO BE REALISTIC ABOUT SITUATION ON ISLAND. ALITHIA CRITICIZES LONG-TERM STRUGGLE, BECAUSE "TIME NO LONGE WORKS IN OUR FAVOR", THEN INDIRECTLY CALLS FOR SPEEDY SOLUTION, EVEN IF NOT AN IDEAL ONE, BEFORE FURTHER GROUND IS LOST. ALITHIA'S WORDS A RE INTERPRETED HERE AS CRITICISM NOT ONLY OF LYSSARIDES BUT ALSO OF MAKARIOS, WHO HAS HERETOFORE HEWED TO LONG STRUGGLE LINE.

4. ALITHIA'S RECENT PRONOUNCEMNTS ARE OF UNUSUAL INTEREST. JULY 21 AFTER CONCLUSION "SOLIDARITY WEEK" IT SUGGESTED THAT PEOPLE LOOKING FOR MORE THAN "EMPTY WORDS" AND ROUSING TRUMPET CALLS RE LONG-TERM STRUGGLE (NICOSIA 2309). AUG 4 IT SAID "LET US NOT PLAY WITH WORDS. THERE WILL BE FEDERAL SOLUTION WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT. IF WE HAD HAD MORE BRAINS, IF WE HAD NOT SAID CONSTANTLY 'NO', THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH BETTER....ALL SOLUTIONS, EVEN MOST PAINFUL, HAVE THEIR GOOD ASPECT ALSO PROVIDED THEY ARE REACHED AT RIGHT TIME AND ARE NOT POSTPONED FOR FUTURE, BECAUSE TIME IS NOT ON OUR SIDE." THESE ARE STRONG WORDS FOR ANY GREEK CYPRIOT PAPER AND APPEAR AS SYSTEMATIC ATTEMPT BUILD SUPPORT FOR CLERIDES' POSITION AND EDUCATE COMMUNITY ON WHAT PAPER (WHICH IS CONSIDERED TO REPRESENT CONFIDENTIAL

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CLERDIES' VIEWPOINT) PERCEIVES AS REALITY OF PRESENT SITUATION.

5. ANOTHER INTERESTING TWIST TO DEBATE IS SUPPORT BY COMMUNIST (AKEL) PAPERS AND OFFICIALS FOR VIENNA AGREEMENTS. WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY SUPPORTING CLERIDES, THEY HAVE CLEARLY SUPPORTED WHAT HE HAS DONE. ON AUGUST 11 AKEL'S ASSISTANT SECGEN FANTIS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR VIENNA BY ARGUING THAT AGREEMENTS HAVE TAKEN CYPRUS PROBLEM "OUT OF DEADLOCK" AND

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"OPEN HOPEFUL PROSPECTS FOR SUBSTANTIAL NEGOTIATIONS."
THUS AKEL NOW ON SIDE OF THOSE WELCOMING RECENT DEVELOP-
MENTS.

6. WHILE DEBATE IN GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNIST RE DIRECTIONS
CYPRUS PROBLEM MOVING BEST EXEMPLIFIED BY LYSSARIDES-
CLERIDES PUBLIC DISPUTE, COMMUNISTY AT LARGE CLEARLY IN
THROES OF QUESTIONING WHERE EVENTS LEADING THEM. ALL FEEL
VIENNA III AND EXPECTED PRESENTATION BY DENKTASH
OF "INTEGRATED" PROPOSALS IN NEW YORK REPRESENT SOME KIND
OF BREAK IN CYPRUS LOGJAM. OUR CONTACTS AGREE
ON THIS POINT. ALSO GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THERE IS
LITTLE GREEK CYPRIOTS ALONG CAN DO TO AFFECT COURSE OF EVNETS.
THERE IS DISAGREEMENT, HOWEVER, ON WHETHER CLERIDES SHOULD
HAVE ACCEPTED "TACIT BIZONALISM" AT VIENNA, ON WHAT DENKTASH
IS LIKELY DEMAND AT NEW YORK , AND ON JUST WHAT ALL THIS
MEANS FOR GREEK CYPRIOT REFUGEES. WHILE MANY ADMIT GREEK
CYPRIOT COMMUNITY GUILTY OF EXCESSES AND RECOGNIZE LOST OPPOR-
TUNITIES IN PAST, ALL ATTACH DIFFERENT PRICE TAG TO THIS
FAILURE. MAKARIOS IS YET TO ADDRESS SUBJECT DIRECTLY. BEFORE
SPEAKING OUT, MAKARIOS -- IN HIS CLASSIC STYLE -- IS STANDING
ALOOF, WAITING EITHER FOR NEXT STEP IN NEGOTIATINGS OR FOR
COALESCENCE OF OPINION IN COMMUNITY FOR OR AGAINST WHAT
CLERIDES HAS DONE.
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